

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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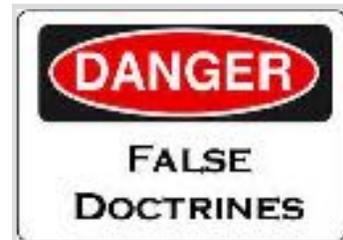
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April 29, 2018

“What’s So Wrong About False Teaching?” #1

By Brian Meade

Because we live in world where so many are accepting false ways as true and right, it can be tempting to think that it just doesn't matter anymore to God. After-all, there are so many areas of disagreement about doctrinal issues like: whether to worship God with an instrument or not? Whether to tithe or not to tithe? Whether to believe that we are saved by faith alone or not? And even whether Jesus was really born of a virgin or not? And the list goes on and on about doctrinal differences— so much so, that some people are tempted to say things like, “*What’s so wrong if we want to believe something different from other churches or the Bible?*” *We are not hurting anyone!*” But is that true? False doctrines are actually more harmful to people than firing a gun in their direction. It is because of the dangerous impact that it has on people’s lives, for now and eternity!



(1) False Teaching Gives Us An Inaccurate & Distorted View of the Scriptures.

If I were to be privileged enough to own a rare and valuable painting by some great artist, and then, what if I decided to make some changes of my own to the canvas? I may decide to add a tree here and there. Maybe change the colors completely to change the mood or decide to erase something or someone from the painting entirely. It would be something very distorted and perverted portrait of what was once a work of art. Suppose my three year old daughter, CarliBeth takes some crayons or a permanent marker to the same painting after me. Now it would really be a distorted mess! And those who came to see the original painting would be sorely disappointed to see such a sight. They might even remark that it looks nothing like the original, and they would be right! That illustration, even though humorous, shows us the error of a lot of religious folk with the picture of the Bible.

God gave us a beautiful picture of His love for us in I John 4:8-10, “*The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*” We see at the cross of Calvary just how much God loved us! God loved ALL mankind and desires for us to be saved! (John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4) But in contrast to the scriptures, men like John Calvin gave the world a distorted view of God’s love in saying that Jesus only died for a select few in a *limited atonement*. This doctrine makes our loving Father seem very unloving, as He chooses some men to destruction without them having a choice in the matter. According to Calvinism, God IS WILLING that some should perish, even when they choose God. Other terms for this inaccurate and distorted view of God’s love are *unconditional election* and *unconditional predestination*. People who are deceived into believing and teaching this doctrine do not know the God of the Bible; they only know a God who doesn’t allow many even an opportunity to be saved! They look at salvation as something that God must provide the sinner— but completely withholds it

from some, but not from others based on no reason at all! The accurate view of God's grace, love, and mercy is that God extends undeserved favor (grace) to man and wants them to come out of sin and obey the gospel (Mark 16:15-16). The basis of our salvation is in relation to our response to the call of the gospel (1 Peter 4:17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Contrary to Calvin's teachings, ALL who desire to be saved can do so through the gospel!

Other distorted views of God are that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are one person and is called the "*Jesus only doctrine*." This inaccurate picture of God comes from a misunderstanding of the "Godhead." (Colossians 2:9; John 15:26; John 1:1) But the scriptural view of the God we serve is that all three individuals make up Deity and were involved in our creation (Genesis 1:27; Genesis 1:2; Colossians 1:15-17). This is why when Jesus was born that Matthew says, "*So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us.'*" (Matthew 1:23)

Mormons view God as having had a wife, which is something completely foreign to the scriptures! Mormonism also teaches that Satan and Jesus are brothers, something also equally inaccurate. Jehovah Witnesses teach that the Father alone is God, and thus make Jesus into a little "god" by an inaccurate rendering of the Greek in the New World Translation of John 1:1.

Jehovah Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventists, and the Worldwide Church of God all deny that man has a spirit or soul that survives the death of the body. But the Bible clearly teaches that man does not cease to exist when the body dies (Luke 16:19-31; Matthew 10:28; Matthew 22:32; Philippians 1:23). Usually, this is in an effort to make the eternal punishment of Matthew 25:46, not really eternal. They will argue that it goes against justice and the love of God to punish anyone eternally. But notice Jesus' own words in Mark 9:43-47, "*If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.'* And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—where 'Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.' And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire—⁴⁸ where 'Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'" If annihilation of those punished were true, then the fire would be quenched and not eternal!

But our concern needs to be using the scriptures in an accurate way and avoid any perversions of the truth. That's why Paul told Timothy to "*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*" (2 Timothy 2:15 NASB)

If we add to or take away from God's word in any way, we are guilty of teaching a perverted gospel. Notice what Paul said of the Jews who were teaching the gospel plus circumcision to the Gentiles at Galatia, "*I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.*" (Galatians 1:6-7)

Modern day perversions of the gospel are no different when men tried to change things then in regard to circumcision and keeping the law of Moses. Paul took a hard line of no compromise with those false brethren in Galatians 2:5, "*But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.*" From this passage, it sounds as if pure and unadulterated truth matters very much to Paul, and God too! Distortions of the truth today are just as harmful as what men were trying to do at Galatia, and therefore we must do as Paul did and not compromise for the sake of the gospel!

In reality, when men want something different from the plain and simple truth of the gospel, God is not going to stop them from following after their own heart (I Kings 12:33). All men can really do with God's perfect and complete revelation of truth is to distort and change it into something other than truth. Peter mentions this concerning some of the writings of Paul, "*in which are some things hard to understand, in which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.*" (2 Peter 3:16)

Satan has many alternatives to truth that only give us something other than what God has communicated to us through the scriptures. May we never be guilty of believing something that is less than the accurate picture of truth! (Acts 18:26)

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Janis Johnson, Elmo Wilson, Martha Little, Martha Norvell (in Ripley Rehab), Charlene Newborn, Delain & Robbie Doles, Penny Carmichael, Greg Fields, Kimberly McCullough, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Mike LaRue, and Eric Potts. Betty Hurst and Karen Kennemur were sick Friday.

Local Meetings:

A **Singing** will be held at the Middleton, Tn. Community Center on **May 12th at 2:00 PM.** Jim Deason will be leading the service. For additional info, please contact Dwain Barnes.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Russell Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: "Jesus: The Passover Lamb"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Jerry Kennemur
The Book of Luke (Mike Willis)
Page 84, Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Paul Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Lee Busby
Philippians 2:14-16
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Lord's Table: Fred Johnson
Assisting: Nathan Meade & Russell Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: "What the World Needs From the Church"
Closing Prayer: Daniel Holloway

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

May 2nd:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
1 & 2 Samuel (Mike Willis)
Page 53, Question #23
Invitation: Russell Briggs
Song Leader: Adam Harris
Closing Prayer: Dan Cottrell